



Thursday 24 February 2022

Growing in God

Storm in a soup bowl

The Revd Karen Burton, Team Rector, Blackbourne Team Ministry was so pleased that the church community was able to help during Storm Eunice. Having lost power during the storm, Ben Lord from the Ixworth Parish Council announced on Facebook that the village hall had opened for people to come along to warm up, a hot drink and to fill up a flask. Meanwhile staff at The Beeches, a local residential home, were struggling to provide residents a hot meal. Karen says *"Priscilla Mann from the church knew that I had a lot of soup and bread rolls in my freezer, left over from an event just before Christmas. I popped up to The Beeches to borrow their pans, and along with others in the village, we defrosted everything and got the soup piping hot before walking it up the High Street for dinner. It was wonderful to see people to come together during the storm - knocking on doors to see if neighbours were ok, spreading the word that there was a warm place to go to".* Karen adds, *"The Beeches holds a special place in the heart of our villages and we are all proud of the love and care staff show to our friends and family who are resident there. The Parish Council and Church coming together to help during the storm was a real privilege and a joy to be part of."*

Funding boost for two Suffolk churches

Two Suffolk churches are to receive a share in a £1.5 million grant fund, thanks to an investment from the Heritage Stimulus Fund, part of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund. 17 grants were made to churches across the country and aimed to support and bolster local economies and jobs across the country, and will open up heritage and the benefits it can bring to people.

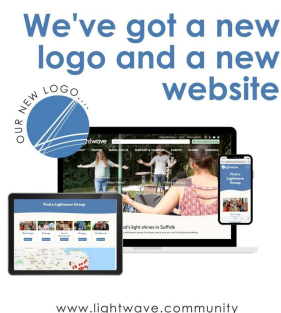
St Mary, Homersfield received a £68,389 grant to keep the church at the heart of the local community by funding the stripping and re-slatting the Chancel, Nave and Porch roofs to ensure protection against rainwater, and repairing the most significant settlement cracks and eroded flintwork, joints and stonework in the tower.

St Andrew, Rushmere St Andrew has been awarded a £32,873 grant to fund urgent repairs on the north slope of the main Nave and North Aisle roof with new flashings for the tower.

Claire Walker, CEO National Churches Trust, said: *"Historic local places of worship are a vital part of our national heritage. The funding is a vote of confidence in the future of historic church buildings and a recognition of their importance to society."*

Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary, said: *"This is welcome, both these grants cover big ticket items that are essential to keep the fabric of the church in good order and parishes often struggle to fund these types of projects"*.

Lightwave Update



Lightwave is excited to be launching a new website. It is now easier than ever to see what our Lightwave groups are up to, where they are and how you can get involved. They have also launched a brand new resource library where you can find everything you need for your group, documents, brochures and helpful information. Along with the launch of the new website, Lightwave has updated its logo, a simple change but we love it. We do hope you join us over at- www.lightwave.community. Please view this website in Chrome.

Events

Christian Presence and Witness in new housing

Thursday 3 March 7.30pm to 8.30pm, online

Across Suffolk new housing developments are springing up and these provide an opportunity to offer a welcome to new residents to our towns and villages. As a diocese we already have a significant amount of experience of demonstrating the love of Christ both to those who are new and those most affected by the building process. Join the Revd Canon Dave Gardner at this open forum to hear how others are addressing this and also to share your insights. To register please click [here](#). Dave will also be featured on Radio Suffolk this weekend.

Preaching Luke through Lent and Easter time - Bishops' teaching morning

Saturday 5 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

'The lectionary giveth, and the lectionary taketh away,' said one wag facing yet another cycle of Year C texts for Lent and Easter. So much that is so familiar - temptation, Thomas, Cleopas and his 'companion' (wife?), etc. What's a preacher to do? Can gospel be found



anew in the midst of such familiar narratives? YES! Join the Bishops and their guest lecturer Dr Bill Brosend as we ask 'What does the Holy Spirit want the people of God to hear from these texts on this occasion?'. Bill Brosend (PhD University of Chicago) is Professor of New Testament and Director of the Thriving in Ministry program at the School of Theology, The University of the South, in Sewanee, TN, USA. Bill is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese

of Kentucky, he is the author of five books, most recently 'Preaching Truth in the Age of Alternative Facts' (Abingdon Press, 2018). His current project, due in 2023 from Baker Academic Press, is a commentary on the parables of Jesus. Free of charge, but please register [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. Please note: the next Bishops' teaching morning will be on 28 May 2022 held in Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Radical Living: St Edmundsbury Lent Series

Starting Wednesday 16 March, 7.00pm - 8.00pm throughout Lent by Zoom

Following the success of the Cathedral's 2021 Lent series 'Radical Faith, extraordinary lives for challenging times', the Cathedral will be holding another series of Lent Talks 'Radical Living, Christians and the Environmental Crisis.' The talks will be held on Zoom and each week a new speaker will look at the environmental challenges of today from a different perspective. If you would like more information please email Canon Michael Robinson at michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org.

The ties that bind

Saturday 19 March 9.30am to 1.00pm
St Mary le Tower. Ipswich

St Mary le Tower will be holding a retreat morning, with addresses by the Revd Canon Dr John Parr. The morning will use the Passion narratives in St John's Gospel as a focus for reflecting on our own world, and will be framed by prayer, music and time for silence. . Addresses will be given in the church, with Church House available for use in breaks. Walks in Christ Church Park and use of coffee shops will also be encouraged. A suggested donation for this morning is £5. Click [here](#) for further information.

Children in the Shadows

Over the last couple of years, The Clewer Initiative has produced a Lent Resource which has been widely used by churches and individuals. This year, they are focusing on children and modern slavery. **Children in the Shadows** is a five-week interactive resource for Lent that will help us consider the various forms of child exploitation, the scale of the abuse, and the need for us all to increase our awareness and effective response. Full details available [here](#).

Day of Reflection - Marie Curie

23 March 2022

The Marie Curie's Day of Reflection marks the anniversary of the beginning of the first UK Lockdown – and to let bereaved people know that they are not alone. There is planned activity throughout the day that churches can get involved with. Churches can register



their interest in being involved on the Marie Curie website [here](#) – and there are practical ideas developed by the Church of England's Life Events Team, including links to posters, prayers and logos [here](#).

Notices

Covid-19: Please visit the recently updated Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information and guidance for churches.

Vacancies

[Vicar](#) | Bures with Assington and Little Cornard | Closing date: 25 February

[Vicar Choral](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir three posts / Closing date: 25 February

[Parish Administrator](#) | Woodbridge St Mary, with Great Bealings | Closing date: 31 February

[Diocesan Temporary Parish Finance & Resources Advisor](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[GenR8 Director](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde Sandlings (Aldeburgh) Benefice | Closing date: 16 March

[Rector 0.5](#) | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich

[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church, Ipswich

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